

about school-based agricultural education, FFA, and the next generation of leaders who will feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

The National FFA Organization is a congressionally chartered school-based national youth leadership development organization that plays an integral role in preparing the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

I sincerely hope my colleagues in the House will consider joining our caucus to support agriculture and the students who are passionate about it.

REFLECTING ON DEMOCRATIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, as Congress reconvenes for the Second Session of the 117th Congress, I want to take a moment to reflect on the important achievements that the Democrats have made this past year.

The pandemic continues to be a challenge, but thanks to the funding provided by the Democrats' American Rescue Plan Act, the vast majority of Americans have been vaccinated and are protected from severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

We must also acknowledge that the Democrats' commitment to building back stronger and more equitably than before has resulted in unprecedented economic recovery from the initial impact of the pandemic.

Last month, the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, the largest calendar-year decrease in the unemployment rate in history. We reached this rate 5 years before experts anticipated. That is the result of adding 6.4 million jobs to the economy since President Biden took office, regaining 84 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic.

This economic boom was brought to you by President Biden and the Democrats in Congress who voted for the American Rescue Plan.

The American Rescue Plan supercharged our economic recovery by providing critical support to small businesses as they navigated the pandemic. It expanded the child tax credit, which helped families put food on the table and pay for childcare. It provided rent assistance so families could keep their housing.

Now, the bipartisan infrastructure law is creating millions of good-paying jobs while rebuilding our Nation's crumbling infrastructure and combating the climate crisis.

Through the American Rescue Plan and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Democrats have delivered for the American people and created historic economic growth.

We have more important work to do. We must encourage the Senate to pass the voting rights protections that we in the House passed months ago that are critical to ensure that all citizens

can exercise their most precious right to vote.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue our important work, building back stronger and more equitably than ever before.

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RECOGNIZING TAYLORVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown Taylorville Junior High School's seventh grade girls' basketball team on their 2021 State championship win.

After a back and forth game, the score was tied at 16-16 with 4 seconds to go. The Tornadoes came out triumphant after Grace Rogers hit a clutch shot.

The seventh grade girls' basketball team ends their season with an overall record of 26-2. This team's hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship shine throughout our entire Taylorville community.

I give a big tip of the hat and personally congratulate my good friend and head coach, Doug Bowsher. I congratulate all the girls on this wonderful, championship team for their hard work and dedication, and I am excited to see what the future holds for this championship Taylorville Tornado team.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BROWN

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend David Brown for his retirement after more than 30 years at WAND in Decatur, Illinois.

David's ancestors moved from New Hampshire to Illinois in 1867 in a search for new farming opportunities. David is a centennial farmer, and his son is the sixth generation from his family to farm in central Illinois. After graduating from Millikin University, David also worked at WSOY radio.

David first joined the WAND news team as an ag reporter when the Farm Progress Show came to central Illinois in 1991. At WAND, many of his colleagues described him as a mentor, a friend, and one of the hardest workers they have come to know.

Throughout David's tenure at the station, he was loved by all and received an award for Media Excellence in Agriculture. According to David, he had the best of both worlds, working at his passion, and then getting to share the importance of agriculture with the viewers as a farmer and as an ag broadcaster.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate David on his retirement. It is well deserved. Now David has a little more time to spend with his four children and six grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING RAY AND BARBIE SWINDA

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Decatur residents Ray and Barbie Swinda and their Facebook page, Support Decatur IL Business.

Ray his wife, Barbie, have been using their Facebook page to show off local Decatur businesses and restaurants they have been enjoying, and encouraging others in the community to follow their lead in buying and eating local.

Ray and his wife started their page in response to larger chains harming the diversity of options for food and services in the Decatur area that Ray remembers existing as a kid. Many of the businesses that have been featured on their page have been shocked by the increase in traffic. Ray and Barbie have received responses from others in the community, including Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe herself, and have become local leaders simply through their work in promoting local businesses and restaurants.

I urge everybody, if you are traveling through Decatur, Illinois, and you want a good recommendation, go visit Ray and Barbie's Facebook page, and you will see some great plates of delicious food.

I also personally congratulate Ray and Barbie on the success of their Facebook page and thank them for being pillars of the community and encouraging so many others to invest in our local businesses.

CONGRATULATING THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate as a proud alumnus of the recently crowned 2022 College Football National Champions, the Georgia Bulldogs.

Going 12-1 on the season, the Georgia Bulldogs came into Indianapolis to face the Alabama Crimson Tide.

In true heavyweight fashion, the grudge match opened as a hard-nosed defensive battle without one touchdown being scored in the first half of play.

The Dogs came out down in the second half and captained by head coach, Kirby Smart, Georgia was able to score the first touchdown to take the lead.

With a defense championed by the likes of Jordan Davis and Nakobe Dean, the Bulldogs managed to hold Alabama to one touchdown all game.

Quarterback Stetson Bennett, who by the way is from Blackshear in Pierce County in the First Congressional District of Georgia that I have the honor and privilege of representing, quarterback Stetson Bennett completed his Cinderella-story season, stepping up when it mattered most.

With an interception returned for a touchdown to seal the deal, the University of Georgia was victorious.

It has been four decades and some change since the University of Georgia brought a national title home to Athens, and I am so excited to see it finally happen.

I was especially excited to see several players from the First District, the aforementioned Stetson Bennett, Nolan Smith from Savannah, and Jack Podlesny from Glynn County help secure this amazing victory.

Congratulations to the Georgia Bulldogs. You will live in the hearts of Georgia fans forever. Athens is title town again. Go Dawgs.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CHARLEY TRIPPI

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the momentous 100th birthday of the Georgia Bulldog legend, Charley Trippi.

Charley is a fixture in Dawg Nation and the football community.

A member of both the college football and pro football Hall of Fame, Charley was a dual athlete at the University of Georgia, playing both baseball and football in 1942, 1945, and 1946.

While in college, Charley played half-back and quarterback and received the Maxwell Award given to the Nation's top all-around player.

Charley was also honored as a unanimous All-American SEC player of the year and as a two-time All-SEC player.

In 1942, Charley helped lead the Georgia Bulldogs to their first national championship.

Selected as the first pick in the first round by the Chicago Cardinals in the NFL draft, Charley continued to have an illustrious career in the pros.

The Cardinals organization inducted Charley into the Arizona Cardinals Ring of Honor following his time in the NFL.

We are so happy and excited that Charley has reached this milestone. Happy birthday, Charley.

CONGRATULATING THE BENEDICTINE CADETS
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Benedictine Cadets High School football team for winning the 2021 Georgia 4A State title.

Winning football games in Georgia, where the sport practically runs through our veins, is hard. But winning the State title requires exceptional grit, determination, and perseverance.

After the Benedictine Cadets suffered a loss in the 2020 State playoff semifinals, they entered the 2021 season with one goal: Winning a State title.

Benedictine has consistently exhibited drive, dedication, and the winner's mentality.

Head coach Danny Britt has tirelessly worked to lead this team to a State title, and their work has finally paid off.

The Georgia 4A State title included Division 1 talent on both sides and was a battle from the beginning. Winning by only a touchdown, it truly was a game for the ages.

We here in the First District of Georgia are so proud of the Benedictine Ca-

dets and all that they have accomplished and will accomplish.

Let's do it again next year.

OREGONIANS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 192, the so-called River Democracy Act.

This bill, contrary to what the title implies, has nothing to do with democracy.

Instead, it would, if passed, label some 4,700 miles of Oregon's rivers, creeks, and streams as "wild and scenic." A more appropriate phrase would be just waiting to be burned and ruined.

However, this is not your typical wild and scenic river bill. This bill would designate a mile-wide corridor running the length of every inch of those 4,700 miles of waterways as wild and scenic. This mile is double the half-mile-wide corridor normal for such designations. This means that under this act, 4,700 square miles—an area about the size of Connecticut—would be locked up and left to the high probability of burning up.

Many of the miles of streams, creeks, and gullies to which the bill would apply are within the 20 counties making up my district. Many of those miles run through Oregon's most important watersheds, which are absolutely essential to the life of my communities, particularly in times of drought. Given the damaging impact of such designations to activities necessary to protect these streams, it is no wonder this bill is deeply unpopular, something that has been made crystal clear to me by the overwhelming majority of my 62 county commissioners. They have serious and unanswered concerns about the dangers the act presents.

Chief among them is that this designation will prevent what needs to be done to protect these watersheds, placing them in a bureaucratic wasteland where it will take years, if not decades, to initiate and then complete plans which may or may not allow the treatment activities needed right now.

Also, a top-down approach to land management is wrong because it completely ignores the interests of well-informed local people, businesses, and stakeholders.

The approach the bill's sponsors used in developing this bill was seriously flawed because the river and stream nominations were solicited from various groups and the general public without any clear legal or scientific analysis to identify those rivers, streams, and creeks that would qualify as scenic. If a scientific or legal analysis exists, the sponsors should share it.

Additionally, the public deserves to know which special interest groups crafted the bill, provided the unofficial

maps of the streams affected, and conducted the outreach to the public.

It is absolutely clear, whatever the process was, that local stakeholders, elected officials, county commissioners, landowners, users, and experts should have been consulted, and they were not.

Let me explain why so many who truly want to protect our public lands are so outraged by this bill.

So far this year, over half a million acres of forests and other lands have burned up in my district. Last year it was even worse with over a million acres laid to waste by fire.

Inexplicably, the bill focuses upon only one method of protecting this 4,700-square-mile proposed area from fire, and that is by what are called "prescribed burns." I cannot emphasize how dangerous it is to prescribe prescribed burns in overgrown, densely packed, dry forests without thinning the forest first. Prescribed burning before thinning puts at extreme risk the very rivers and watersheds this designation is supposed to protect. It is like dropping a match in a tinderbox. It is impossible to contain these types of fires once they start.

The River Democracy Act, if passed, would threaten watersheds, homes, businesses, ranches, livestock, and most importantly, human lives.

The bill contains provisions throughout that leave the door wide open for frivolous litigation by far-left special interest groups, who have profited for years from lucrative sue-and-settle tactics.

The bill contains no explicit protections for the current multiple uses of the land, including sustainable timber harvests, hunting, grazing, fishing, and mining.

Regardless of legislative intent, the applicable agencies will have broad authorities to restrict these activities.

To date, no official maps have been provided. Oregonians need to have access to clear official maps to see just how much land is affected by this bill. I believe no further action should be taken with regard to this bill until the questions I have raised today and necessary maps are made available to the public so that Oregonians know exactly what this bill would do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JANICE GALLAGHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of an extraordinary person, Mrs. Janice Gallagher, who our community tragically lost.

Born in Philadelphia, Janice was a lifelong resident of Bensalem and was a proud graduate of Archbishop Ryan High School and Holy Family University.